

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 04869 161202Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P R 161100Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9949
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T BANGKOK 4869

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.)
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THAILAND

REF: (A) BANGKOK 4318; (B) STATE 37056

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ON FEBRUARY 16 PRESENTED
AMBASSADOR FOLLOWING AIDE-MEMOIRE IN RESPONSE TO HIS
REMARKS AT FEBRUARY 13 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
UPPADIT:

QTE REFERENCE IS HEREBY MADE TO THE EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'S AIDE MEMOIRE DATED 13 FEBRUARY
1978, INFORMING THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
PROPOSED VISIT TO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AREA OF
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE HONORABLE
WALTER F. MONDALE, IN APRIL 1978, DURING WHICH HE HAS
PROPOSED TO ARRIVE IN BANGKOK AT 12:30 P.M., THURSDAY,
APRIL 13, FROM JAKARTA AND TO DEPART AT 10:00 A.M.,
FRIDAY, APRIL 14, FOR MANILA.

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QTE THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THAILAND ON THE
PROPOSED DATES WOULD BE MOST WELCOME, AND THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
INFORM THE EMBASSY THAT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD
BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF
HIS PARTY AS ITS ESTEEMED GUESTS.

QTE THE MINISTRY WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE AN EARLY

REPLY FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO THIS INVITATION, SO THAT NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VISIT AS WELL AS AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE TEXT AND TIMING OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT COULD BE WORKED OUT BY BOTH SIDES.

QTE DUE NOTE HAS ALSO BEEN TAKEN OF THE EMBASSY'S REQUEST THAT THE PROPOSED VISIT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT REMAIN PRIVILEGED INFORMATION FOR THE TIME BEING. END QTE.

2. AS GUESTS OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND HIS PARTY WOULD PROBABLY BE HOUSED IN THE ERAWAN HOTEL. THE ERAWAN IS GOVERNMENT OWNED, CENTRALLY LOCATED AND IS GENERALLY USED BY THE RTG TO HOUSE ITS OFFICIAL GUESTS. EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT ENTIRELY SUITABLE FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. ALL SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET.

3. IN PRESENTING ABOVE AIDE MEMOIRE TO AMBASSADOR, UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ARUN PHANUPHONG, NOTED THAT SUGGESTED PROGRAM FOR VICE PRESIDENT WOULD BE WORKED OUT BY MFA, BUT INDICATED HIS INITIAL THOUGHTS INCLUDED MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AND CALL ON THE KING AND QUEEN AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13, FOLLOWED BY EVENING DINNER HOSTED BY PRIME MINISTER. ARUN ALSO MENTIONED THAT RTG WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE EMBASSY COORDINATE ON ANNOUNCEMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THAILAND. NOTING 12:30 ETA ON APRIL 13, ARUN
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WONDERED ALOUD IF ETA COULD BE EITHER SLIGHTLY ADVANCED TO ALLOW FOR OFFICIAL LUNCHEON IN BANGKOK OR DELAYED TO PERMIT PARTY TO LUNCH IN-FLIGHT SO THAT OFFICIAL SCHEDULE COULD COMMENCE IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL CEREMONIES HAVE BEEN DISPENSED WITH. AMBASSADOR NOTED VICE PRESIDENT'S EXTREMELY TIGHT SCHEDULE MEANT VERY LIMITED FLEXIBILITY IN TIMING BUT PROMISED TO LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY OF ALTERING SLIGHTLY 12:30 ETA.

4. COMMENT: ASSUMING VICE PRESIDENT ACCEPTS INVITATION TO GUEST OF RTG, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE ANNOUNCEMENT OF VISIT INCLUDE WORDING TO THE EFFECT THAT VICE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN INVITED TO VISIT THAILAND AS GUEST OF RTG. RECOGNIZE THAT ADVANCING ETA IN BANGKOK MAY BE DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF IMPACT ON JAKARTA SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, A DELAY OF 30 MINUTES OR SO WOULD RELIEVE RTG OF FEELING NECESSITY TO SCHEDULE LUNCHEON HOSPITALITY PRIOR TO COMMENCING OFFICIAL SCHEDULE. IN EMBASSY'S JUDGMENT, VICE PRESIDENT'S TIME COULD BE BETTER UTILIZED BY IN-FLIGHT LUNCH, A 1300 ARRIVAL AND OFFICIAL PROGRAM COMMENCING AT 1400 OR 1415 THAN BY A 1230 ARRIVAL FOLLOWED BY A 1330 LUNCHEON WHICH WOULD DELAY COMMENCEMENT

OF OFFICIAL PROGRAM TO 1500. WE UNDERSTAND, OF COURSE,
THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE EARLY IN-FLIGHT LUNCH
AND STILL ARRIVE AT 1230, BUT OUR CONCERN HERE IS THAT
THAI WILL FEEL THEY ARE NOT BEING GOOD HOSTS IF GUESTS
ARRIVE AT LUNCH HOUR AND DO NOT RECEIVE LUNCHEON
HOSPITALITY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT
RTG INVITATION TO VICE PRESIDENT AND PARTY. IF THAI SO PROPOSE,
REQUEST APPROVAL FOR USE OF ERAWAN HOTEL (NORMALLY USED FOR
VIP VISITORS BY RTG). REQUEST REACTION TO SUGGESTION
THAT ETA BE ALTERED SLIGHTLY. ALSO WOULD VICE PRESIDENT
BE AMENABLE TO SHORT VISIT TO THE EMBASSY ON MORNING OF
APRIL 14 TO SPEAK INFORMALLY TO U.S. AND THAI EMPLOYEES
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PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR AIRPORT.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

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